

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 05752 161436Z

ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9219

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 5752

DEPT PASS NAC AGENCIES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFDF, EAID, EFIN

SUBJ: AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND LOAN FOR

SIERRA LEONE FREETOWN SEWERAGE

STUDY

SUMMARY: AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND MANAGEMENT

PROPOSES FUA 450 THOUSAND (FUA EQUAL TO US \$1.11)

LOAN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA

LEONE FOR FINANCING OCEANOGRAPHIC AND OUTFALL

STUDIES AS PART OF THE FREETOWN SEWERAGE STUDY.

END SUMMARY.

1. AFDF DOCUMENT BD/78/47 AND ATTACHMENTS

DESCRIBING LOAN POUCHED TO NAC AGENCIES JUNE 12,

1978. REQUEST E AMEMBASSY FREEWTON CABLE AN Y VIEWS

ON PROPOSED STUDY TO ASSIST NATIONAL ADVISORY

COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS ON U.S. BOARD POSITION.

BOARD CONSIDERATION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 29, 1978.

2. AFDF MANAGEMENT PROPOSES FUA 450 THOUSAND

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PAGE 02 ABIDJA 05752 161436Z

LOAN TO GOSL TO FINANCE COST OF OCEANGRAPHIC AND

OUTFALL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE SIERRA LEONE RIVER

ESTUARY AND THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AREAS ADJACENT TO

THE RIVER MOUTH FREETOWN TO DETERMINE AND VERIFY

WHETHER ESTUARINE DISPOSAL BY MEANS OF A SUBMARINE

OUTFALL PIPELINE IS A PRACTICAL PROPOSITION ON

WHICH TO BASE ENGINEERING DESIGNS FOR THE PROPOSED

FREETOWN SEWERAGE PROJECT. PROPOSED AFDF STUDY IS ANCILLARY TO 1977 MASTER PLAN STUDY FOR FREETOWN SEWERAGE, STORM DRAINAGE AND SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL EXECUTED JOINTLY BY U.S. FIRMS OF DANIEL, MANN JOHNSON, AND MENDEHALL/CHECCI AND COMPANY (DMJM/C) UNDER USAID GRANT ADMINISTERED BY AFDB. MASTER PLAN STUDY RECOMMENDED THE DISPOSAL OF SEWERAGE EFFLUENTS, AFTER PRELIMINARY TREATMENT, DIRECTLY TO SIERRA LEONE RIVER ESTUARY BY MEANS OF A SUBMARINE OUTFALL PIPELINE. THIS PROPOSAL IS CONSIDERED AS THE "BEST ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION" FOR THE PROJECT OUT TO THE YEAR 2000. SINCE OCEAN CONDITIONS ARE SO VARIABLE AND AT TIMES UNSTABLE, AND SINCE CONSTRUCTION COSTS VARY SIGNIFICANTLY DEPENDING ON LOCAL CONDITIONS, IT IS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT AN IN-DEPT ANALYSIS OF LOCAL CONDITIONS IN ORDER TO VERIFY WHETHER ESTUARINE DISPOSAL IS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO EXISTING PROBLEMS. IN ADDITION TO DEVELOPING PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGNS, STUDY WILL DETERMINE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF OUTFALL DISCHARGES ON FISHING ACTIVITIES, SHELL FISH, AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT MARINE LIFE IN THE ESTUARY. STUDY INCLUDES ANALYSIS OF BACTERIA DIE-OFF RATES IN ESTUARINE SALT WATER. FINAL REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED WITHIN EIGHT MONTHS OF CONTRACT AWARD. IN ORDER TO SAVE (SAVE) TIME AND EXPENSE, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 ABIDJA 05752 161436Z

AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXISTING EXPERTISE, ADF(AFDF) MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDS THAT GOSL BE PERMITTED TO NEGOTIATE CONTRACT WITH DMJM/C RATHER THAN CALLING FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDERS. NEGOTIATED CONTRACT TO BE SUBJECT TO AFDF APPROVAL. PROPOSED TERMS OF AFDF LOAN: 13 YEARS AMORTIZATION INCLUDING THREE YEARS GRACE, WITH 9.75 PERCENT SERVICE CHARGE.

3. FREETOWN, THE CAPITAL CITY OF GOSL, HAS AN ESTIMATED 1976 POPULATION IN EXCESS OF 300 THOUSAND.

THE CITY IS EXPERIENCING STEADY GROWTH AND WITH EXCEPTION OF WATER SUPPLY, EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT THE PRESENT POPULATION. MOST OF THE CITY IS WITHOUT SEWERS. THERE ARE FOUR SEWER LINES IN THE CITY, THREE OF WHICH ARE UNDERSIZED AND DISCHARGE RAW SEWAGE DIRECTLY TO THE SHORE. MANY AREAS ARE SERVED BY INADEQUATE SEPTIC TANKS, AND A GOOD DEAL OF THIS SEWAGE FINDS ITS WAY INTO THE STORM DRAINAGE SYSTEM CREATING EXTREME HEALTH HAZARDS IN THAT MANY PEOPLE USE THE STORM DRAIN

FLows TO BATHE AND WASHTHEIR CLOTHES. THE CITY'S
STORM DRAINAGE SYSTEM IS EXTENSIVE, BUT WAS
CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN 1820 AND 1950 IN A PIECE-
MEAL FASHION. NO SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS HAVE
BEEN ADDED FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS. WHO, WHICH
ASSISTED IN THE ASSESSEMENT OF THE CITY'S SEWERAGE
AND WATER DRAINAGE NEEDS, IDENTIFIED FLOODING
AND SOIL EROSION AS TWO PROBLEMS TO BE DEALT
WITH UNDER THE CITY'S MASTER PLAN. RAINFALL IN
THE CITY AVERAGES 130 INCHES PER YEAR. THE
PROPOSED AFDF STUDY FITS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK
OF WHO AND UNDP PROGRAMS COVERING THESE AND OTHER
ISSUES RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY.
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PAGE 04 ABIDJA 05752 161436Z

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